



# Press Release

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## **Arbor Day Foundation Names Leesburg Tree City USA**

**LEESBURG, FL** – The City of Leesburg was named a 2015 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management.

Leesburg achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

"This recognition marks the City of Leesburg's 16<sup>th</sup> year as a Tree City USA," said Mayor Jay Hurley. "It shows the dedication the City has to promoting tree preservation as an important component to our quality of life."

For the most recent Arbor Day event, the city gave away 150 trees comprised of Eagleston Holly and Live Oak native species. These selections thrive in both urban and rural environments making them a great fit for our community. Trees provide multiple benefits when properly planted and maintained. They help to improve a neighborhood's visual appeal, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits.

"Tree City USA communities see the impact an urban forest has in a community first hand," said Dan Lambe, President of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Additionally, recognition brings residents together and creates a sense of community pride, whether it's through volunteer engagement or public education."

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

Leesburg is a progressive city of more than 21,000 residents in northwest Lake County. The city government serves twice as many people with its electric, gas, water, wastewater and fiber-optic public utilities. Leesburg also is a central hub for commerce, attracting 50,000 people to work each weekday. For more information, visit [www.leesburgflorida.gov](http://www.leesburgflorida.gov).

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